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## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6350

May 24, 2000

### VIA FIRST CLASS MAIL AND FACSIMILE

The Honorable Jacques S. Gansler  
Undersecretary of Defense for Acquisition,  
Technology and Logistics  
3010 Defense Pentagon  
Room 3E933  
Washington, DC 20301-3010

Dear Undersecretary Gansler:

We recently learned that several program managers in the Department of Defense's (DOD) Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (SADBU) will soon be reassigned to manage other programs within that office. We further understand that these reassignments may result in a new program manager for the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program at the DOD.

The SBIR program at the DOD is of extreme importance and accounts for approximately fifty percent of the total SBIR awards provided to small businesses by the Federal government. In Fiscal Year 1998, the DOD's SBIR program awarded almost \$600 million in research and development grants to small businesses across the nation. Given the importance of this program to the small business community, it is essential that the SBIR program manager have thorough knowledge of the program to ensure that it successfully accomplishes its objectives.

While it is not our intent to micro-manage personnel decisions at the DOD, we are concerned that if the DOD reassigns an experienced program manager and replaces him with an individual with less experience in the SBIR program, it may have implications that negatively affect both the operation of the program and the small business participants. With reauthorization of the SBIR program occurring this year, the program is at a critical stage in its evolution and a diminution of the DOD's leadership of this program could have detrimental consequences throughout the Federal government.

Accordingly, please provide us with an explanation of any decisions that have been made to reassign program managers in the DOD's SADBU, as well as any documents that have been prepared that address the reassignment. If you would prefer, you may also verbally brief the Committees on Small Business of the Senate and the House on this matter. We would appreciate receiving your reply by May 31, 2000. If you have any questions or need any additional

Hon. Jacques S. Gansler

Page 2

information, please contact David Bohley of the Senate Committee on Small Business at (202) 224-5175 or Patricia Forbes of the Minority Staff of the Senate Committee on Small Business at (202) 224-

Thank you for your attention of this matter.

Sincerely,

Jeff Bond

John F. Vary

David Bohley